

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:BDF
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S - MR HOUGHTON
D - MR LAMB
S/S:PTARNOFF

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN
MINISTER KHALATBARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER
KHALATBARY.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GREETING YOU IN WASHINGTON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING.
I HAVE SEEN THE MEETING AS GIVING US ANOTHER GOOD OCCASION
TO DISCUSS BOTH THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF CENTO TO THE
SECURITY OF THE CENTO REGION, AND VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS OF
INTEREST TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS.

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I WRITE TO YOU AT THIS MOMENT AS A RESULT OF URGENT REQUIRE-
MENTS WHICH HAVE ARISEN THAT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20, THE DATES SET FOR THE
CENTO MEETING. I WISH TO LAY THE MATTER BEFORE YOU FOR
YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONSIDERATION, AND SEEK YOUR
ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM IN THE BEST INTERESTS

OF ALL CONCERNED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN RECENT MONTHS, IN THE CLOSEST COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN SEEKING AN EARLY, EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA. IN VERY RECENT DISCUSSIONS IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO CONVENE AN URGENT MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN AFRICA ON THIS MATTER, AND I WILL THEREFORE BE RETURNING TO AFRICA FOR DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL KEEP ME OCCUPIED THROUGH APRIL 17.

MEANWHILE, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF CONSIDERABLE AND URGENT IMPORTANCE. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO PERSONALLY TO MOSCOW AT AN EARLY DATE TO CARRY FORWARD THESE DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHALL HAVE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 19.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE ABOVE, THE NEED FOR ME TO BE IN AFRICA THROUGH APRIL 17 AND TO BE IN MOSCOW BY LATE ON APRIL 19 WILL PRECLUDE MY BEING IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20 FOR THE CENTO MEETING. WE ARE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE CENTO MEETING HERE ON THOSE DATES, AND IN THAT EVENT MY DEPUTY, WARREN CHRISTOPHER, WOULD CHAIR THE U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE MINISTERIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE CENTO MEETING AND TO MEET WITH THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE OTHER CENTO COUNTRIES. HAVING THIS IN MIND, I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS HOST IN LONDON FOR THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN OUR PLACE, SHOULD THAT BE AGREEABLE TO THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. MR. OWEN HAS VERY GRACIOUSLY AGREED, AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH YOU, THE OTHER REGIONAL MEMBERS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL--TO WHOM I AM ALSO WRITING AT THIS TIME--ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

IF YOU, THE OTHER REGIONAL MEMBERS AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL AGREE THAT OUR NEXT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN LONDON, I SHOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AS WELL AS THE OTHER HEADS OF DELEGATION AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO BE MY GUESTS AT DINNER ON APRIL 18 SO THAT WE MAY HAVE AN INFORMAL OCCASION TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF

INTEREST TO US ALL.

I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS. IN ANY EVENT, I LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY MEETING WITH YOU SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS THE IMPORTANT MATTERS IN WHICH BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE A VERY STRONG STAKE. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE END QUOTE.

3. REPORT PROMPTLY ANY REACTION TO ABOVE LETTER.

4. WE SHALL HAVE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH HMG AND YOU SHOULD THEREFORE KEEP YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE CURRENTLY INFORMED REGARDING YOUR APPROACH. VANCE

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